

Arlington Historical Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of
Tuesday, 2 August 2016
Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:45 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Commissioners Patrick Guthrie, Eric Stange, and Chair, JoAnn Robinson.
2. Review of minutes: No minutes reviewed.
3. Communications Received:
 - a. Call received regarding 28 Draper Avenue. The house is on the Inventory. Inquiry regarding the installation of solar panels.
 - b. Call from Mike Sheehan of the Arlington Police Department regarding plaques that are missing from the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Lowell Street.
 - c. Call from architect for 18 Kensington Road. Wants to talk about materials to be used and regulations of the Arlington Historical Commission.
 - d. Call from homeowner at 39 Orvis Road. Wants to paint trim and soffits. Asked about replacement of non-wood soffits.
 - e. Demolition request for 8 Lafayette Street garage. The house is not on the Inventory. A sign-off was sent to the Building Department.
 - f. Call from Coelho Contracting regarding the property at 47 Mystic Lake Drive. Hearing scheduled for September 6.
 - g. Request for Historical House marker from Matt Mishkin.
 - h. Call regarding repair of porch on Medford Street.
4. Reports of other Town Boards and Historical Organizations:
 - a. Arlington Preservation Fund (Guthrie, Schaefer)- Meeting in May. No pending loans.
 - b. Arlington Historical Society (Meister)- No report.
 - c. Arlington Historic Districts Commission (Robinson)- Nothing to report.
 - d. ATED- Arlington Tourism and Economic Development Committee (Guthrie)- Nothing to report
 - e. Community Preservation Act Committee (Robinson)- Meeting held to talk about procedures for next year. A Special Town Meeting will be held in late September or October. A historic preservation lawyer has been hired.
 - f. Arlington Cultural District Commission (Meister)- No report.

Historical Commission FY 2016 Budget – Nothing to report.
5. Projects Proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:
 - a. Whittemore Robbins House Cottage 6/13 Robinson - Nothing to report.

- b. 1173 Massachusetts Avenue 11/14 Guthrie- Nothing to report.
- c. 38 Kensington Park 5/15 Stange- Nothing to report.
- d. 61 Brantwood Road 7/15 Stange- Nothing to report.
- e. 42 Henderson Street 10/15 Schaefer- No report.
- f. 252 Gray Street 2/16 Guthrie- Progressing.
- g. 1210 Massachusetts Avenue 3/16 Schaefer- No report.
- h. 3-11 Lakeview Street 4/16 Schaefer/Robinson- Nothing to report.

6. Continuing Projects

- a. Whittemore Robbins House (and outbuildings): Robinson – Pending.
- b. Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson – Put in CPA application.
- c. Education/Outreach: Robinson – Nothing to report.
- d. Historic House Markers- A couple of requests in process.
- e. Town Hall: Nothing to report.
- f. Web Site: Stange – Nothing to report.

Discussion and Hearings:

8:00pm- Hearing for 418 Massachusetts Avenue Presenter: Narain Bhatia, owner.

Hearing Decision for 418 Massachusetts Avenue

This address is included on the Arlington Historical Commission Inventory of Significant Properties. At the August 2, 2016, meeting a quorum of the Arlington Historical Commission reviewed the proposed repairs to the front and side porches, the steps, ramp and siding at 418 Massachusetts Avenue.

No design changes are planned and the repairs will exactly match the profiles and dimensions of the existing building elements, Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize repairs to the building as described below.

- Remove and replace the porch decking and stairs. All stairs will be made of wood, but when the asphalt ramp at the side stairs is removed, the two new steps may be made of stone.
- The existing round handrails on the ramp and stairs may be made of metal
- Repair any rotted or missing elements such as balusters and railings, columns, etc. with wood that matches the original profiles and dimensions.
- All trim or siding that is replaced will match the profiles and dimensions of the originals.

When rebuilding the porches, etc. if it is discovered that additional repairs are required, these repairs must be discussed with the Commission monitor. Also if other materials are proposed, these changes must be discussed with the project monitor.

Commissioner Eric Stange will be the project monitor.

Discussion: Elizabeth Stevens from 205 Forest Street.

Owner described problem that the sill behind the house is below grade and is looking for guidance on how to solve the problem.

Talked about possible solutions:

- a. Move the house back.
- b. Lift so that the house is above grade.

Commissioners explained the one-year demolition delay.

Report regarding Master Plan Implementation Committee: JoAnn Robinson will be the representative from the Arlington Historical Commission. Work on updating the Inventory, create guidelines for preservation maintenance, look at the Newton inventory process, and submit MPPF and CPA grants in September.

Old Business: Arlington Center for the Arts will be housed on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Central School Building. A capitol campaign is being planned to raise \$500,000.

New Business:

The Arlington Historical Commission meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be September 6, 2016.

For the Arlington Historical Commission, Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary.